

SITUATION REPORT NO. 3

INCIDENT NO. 2003-002

DATE: December 24, 2003 Time: 9:50 a.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: HSAS Threat Level Orange - In response to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) threat level change of December 21, 2003, based on reports of increased terrorist communications addressing the potential for attacks on the United States and its interests in foreign lands, actions associated with the increased threat levels have been implemented throughout North Dakota.

2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported in North Dakota.

3. DAMAGES: No identifiable damages have occurred because of elevation of the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) threat level.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local agencies on heightened alert include public safety agencies such as law enforcement, fire departments, city, county and tribal administration offices, human services, public works departments, communications centers, emergency management offices and emergency medical services.

STATE: State agencies have initiated increased security measures based on the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP).

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports;

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On Sunday, December 21, the Governor directed the North Dakota Homeland Security Director to activate the State Emergency Operation Plan (SEOP) and raise the state's terrorist threat level to Orange, based on the President's direction to increase the alert level. State agencies are working with local, tribal, and private partners to implement appropriate heightened security measures. The action places the state's law enforcement, emergency personnel and state agencies at a heightened state of alert.

Functional coordinators having responsibilities identified in the SEOP reviewed efforts to increase security during a briefing held at the State Operations Center (SOC) on Tuesday, December 23.

Actions reported in response to elevation of the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) include:

- Local officials have been provided official notification of the alert level change through local and tribal emergency managers regarding implementation of appropriate security measures.
- State agencies have been contacted to ensure activation of elevated security and awareness measures.
- The communications section of the State Operations Center (SOC) continues to conduct operations with increased awareness during monitoring of incoming calls and incidents, for intelligence purposes; and procedures for relaying suspicious information have been reviewed.
- A review of scheduled leave has been conducted to ensure adequate staffing in the event of an identified homeland security threat or action within the state and surrounding jurisdictions.
- Tribal chairmen disseminated information regarding the increased threat level to sheriff and police departments, ambulance, and first responders within tribal reservations to increase vigilance and security at identified critical infrastructure sites such as schools, hospitals, and water treatment facilities.
- Officials have taken steps to increase security at state facilities.
- The N.D. Army National Guard remains alert to any additional orders to activate protective and security measures after the U.S. Secretary of Defense increased the military threat level response to ThreatCon Bravo in response to HSAS elevation to threat level Orange.
- Coordination with full-time in-state military officials has been established.
- State, local and tribal public safety personnel have been advised to step up their surveillance of critical assets.
- Information addressing the increased threat level has been sent by the N.D. Aeronautics Commission to the eight major airports, as well as to the general aviation airports.
- Implementation of planned overtime for personnel to provide increased surveillance has been utilized.
- The Veterinarian Reserve Corps has been tasked with notifying area veterinarians regarding the elevated threat level.
- N.D. Department of Human Services' Crisis Responder Teams are on-call 24/7 in all eight regions of the state.
- Food security measures have been addressed.

- An Employee Assistance Program contact number has been provided to state personnel for assistance with problems associated with stress related to this alert level.
- Health alerts have been sent out to the N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH) regional offices and,
- NDDoH is addressing preparedness measures provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure that increased surveillance and reporting measures are active and agencies remain alert to reports of any unusual disease or disease patterns, or chemical or radiation events.

Citizens seeking preparedness suggestions and advice for families can find it at www.ready.gov and 1-800-Be-Ready.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: As indicated.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: As indicated.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director